Remarks

Support for new claim 33 is at least at page 3, lines 20-24. Support for new claim 34 is at least at page 39, lines 1-11 and page 62, line 1 through page 71, line 8. Claims 33-34 are pending after entry of this amendment.

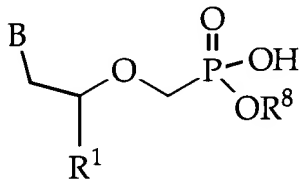
In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

Cancel claims 1-32.

Add the following new claims.

--33. A method for preparing a compound of formula (1) comprising reacting a compound of formula (4)



(4)

with $LC(R^2)_2OC(O)X(R)_a$ wherein,

B is guanin-9-yl, adenin-9-yl, 2,6-diaminopurin-9-yl, 2-aminopurin-9-yl or their 1-deaza, 3-deaza, or 8-aza analogs, or B is cytosin-1-yl;

X is N or O;

R is independently -H, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_5-C_{12} aryl, C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, C_7-C_{12} alkenylaryl, C_7-C_{12} alkynylaryl, or C_6-C_{12} alkaryl, any one of which is unsubstituted or is substituted with 1 or 2 halo, cyano, azido, nitro or $-OR^3$ in which R^3 is C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, C_2-C_{12} alkynyl or C_5-C_{12} aryl;

R^1 is hydrogen, $-CH_3$, $-CH_2OH$, $-CH_2F$, $-CH=CH_2$, or $-CH_2N_3$, or R^1 and R^8 are joined to form $-CH_2-$;

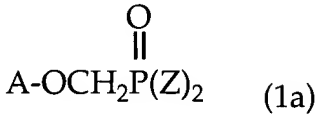
R^2 independently is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl; and

R^8 is hydrogen or $-CHR^2-O-C(O)-OR$, or R^8 is joined with R^1 to form $-CH_2-$; and

a is 1 when X is O, or 1 or 2 when X is N,

with the proviso that when a is 2 and X is N, (a) two N-linked R groups can be taken together to form an N-containing carbocycle or oxygen-containing heterocycle, (b) one N-linked R additionally can be $-OR^3$ or (c) both N-linked R groups can be -H.

34. A method comprising contacting a cell with a compound of formula (1a)



(1a)

wherein Z is independently $-OC(R^2)_2OC(O)X(R)_a$, an ester, an amidate or -OH, but at least one Z is $-OC(R^2)_2OC(O)X(R)_a$;

A is the residue of an antiviral phosphonomethoxy nucleotide analog;

X is N or O;

R^2 independently is -H, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_5-C_{12} aryl, C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, C_7-C_{12} alkenylaryl, C_7-C_{12} alkynylaryl, or C_6-C_{12} alkaryl, any one of which is unsubstituted or is substituted with 1 or 2 halo, cyano, azido, nitro or $-OR^3$ in which R^3 is C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, C_2-C_{12} alkynyl or C_5-C_{12} aryl;

R independently is -H, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, C_5-C_{12} aryl, C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, C_7-C_{12} alkyenylaryl, C_7-C_{12} alkynylaryl, or C_6-C_{12} alkaryl, any one of which is unsubstituted or is substituted with 1 or 2 halo, cyano, azido, nitro, $-N(R^4)_2$ or $-OR^3$, where R^4 independently is -H or C_1-C_8 alkyl, provided that at least one R is not H; and

a is 1 when X is O, or 1 or 2 when X is N;

with the proviso that when a is 2 and X is N, (a) two N-linked R groups can be taken together to form an N-containing carbocycle or oxygen-containing heterocycle, (b) one N-linked R additionally can be $-OR^3$ or (c) both N-linked R groups can be -H.--

Applicants respectfully request an early examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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